

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05168 261149 Z

14

ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3426

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5168

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JA, VN, VS

SUBJ: JAPAN AND DRV: MIYAKE VISIT: IV - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

REF: TOKYO 5165

SUMMARY: SEE REFTTEL

1. IN DISCUSSING SVN, DRV OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT GVN IS WEAK PUPPET REGIME WHICH LACKS POPULAR SUPPORT. IN RESPONSE MIYAKE DESCRIBED GVN'S STRENGTHS AND PREDICTED THAT IF ELECTION HELD, 80 PERCENT WOULD BACK GVN. NORTH VIETNAMESE, ANGERED, COUNTER- ARGUED THAT WITHOUT US AID GVN WOULD COLLAPSE. MIYAKE REPLIED THAT HALF OF GOVERNMENTS IN WORLD COULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING NVN. FROM CONVERSATIONS, MIYAKE GAINED IMPRESSION THAT DRV APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CONVINCED BY ITS OWN PROPAGANDA AND APPEARS TO REALLY BELIEVE GVN IS WEAK PUPPET REGIME.

2. MIYAKE SAID INOUE HAD MENTIONED 1968 HUE TET MASSACRES. WHEN NORTH VIETNAMESE DISMISSED MASSACRES AS SAIGON
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05168 261149 Z

PROPAGANDA, MIYAKE REPLIED THAT GOJ HAS EMBASSY IN SAIGON, EMBOFFS HAD VISITED HUE AND REACHED INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT THAT MASSACRES HAD OCCURRED.

3. MIYAKE SAID HE HAD TRIED TO ENGAGE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON LAOS AND KHMER SITUATIONS BUT FOUND THEM TO BE RELATIVELY UNINTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THOSE COUNTRIES.

4. MIYAKE SAID THAT CHINESE INFLUENCE IN NORTH VIETNAM APPEARED TO HAVE DECLINED AND SOVIET INFLUENCE RISEN SINCE HIS PREVIOUS VISIT IN FEBRUARY 72. CHINESE WERE MUCH LESS IN EVIDENCE AND SOVIETS MORE VISIBLE THAN ONE YEAR EARLIER. WHILE NORTH VIETNAMESE WANT INDEPENDENCE FIRST AND FOREMOST, THEIR REMARKS ABOUT CHINESE WERE MORE CRITICAL IN TONE THAN THOSE ABOUT SOVIETS.

5. MIYAKE SENSED THAT PEACE MOOD WAS SPREADING IN HANOI AND THAT PEOPLE WERE PLEASED THAT WAR HAD SUBSIDED. HE SAID DRV SEEMED TROUBLED BY THIS AND WAS TRYING TO RESTRAIN THIS MOOD OF PEACE. MIYAKE NOTICED LITTLE CHANGE IN APPEARANCES OF PEOPLE AND SHOPS IN HANOI, EXCEPT THAT CLOTHING WAS SOMEWHAT MORE COLORFUL THAN IT WAS YEAR AGO.

6. IN DISCUSSING PERSONNEL EXCHANGE, MIYAKE SAID HE HAD PRESENTED PROPOSAL ON EXCHANGE OF NEWSMEN. IN ADDITION HE HAD AGAIN SOUGHT DRV'S GOOD OFFICES IN LOCATING JAPANESE NEWSMEN MISSING IN CAMBODIA. DRV HAD SAID IT WOULD PASS LIST OF MISSING TO GRUNK EMBASSY IN HANOI.

7. MIYAKE HAD TOLD NORTH VIETNAMESE THAT US ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS RE ASSISTANCE TO DRV, AND THAT DRV REFUSAL TO RECEIVE SENATOR BROOKE HAD BEEN BAD DECISION. NORTH VIETNAMESE RESPONDED BY EXPLAINING DIFFICULTIES THEY FACE IN RECEIVING VISITORS IN HANOI. MIYAKE COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE DO NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND ROLES AND IMPORTANCE OF US CONGRESS AND JAPANESE DIET.
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